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December 9, 2002

Docket Management
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. NHTSA-2002-12065

As State Director of School Bus Transportation for the Texas Department of Public Safety I would like to commend the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for addressing a safety issue that existed in transporting preschool and special needs children in school buses through the issuance of an Interim Final Rule. This action allows for an immediate resolution of the situation. It provides assurance to the pupil transportation industry that safety vests that are attached to school bus seat backs provide a viable means for safely transporting certain children in school buses.

I have reviewed the regulatory language in the Interim Final Rule and concur with it as written. I encourage the agency to make the Interim Final Rule a Final Rule as soon as possible, but certainly before December 1, 2003.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important rulemaking action.

Sincerely,

(Signature on File)

Charley Kennington
State Director